

CURRENT CAPITAL TOPICS.

Action of the Various Senate Committees.

Disinclination for General Legislation This Session--Cabinet Meeting--The National Finances--Revenue Raising--The Levee Issue.

The Senate Committees.

The Senate Finance Committee yesterday formally decided that for the present it will consider any of the bills which may be referred to it. There is an understanding, however, that in the event of Congress manifesting a disposition to enter upon general legislation this session the committee will then proceed to transact business as usual.

The Senate Committee on Patents adopted a resolution providing that no bills or petitions for extensions of patents shall be considered by the committee during the extra session.

The Senate Committee on Public Lands decided to report favorably upon the nomination of Clarence King to be director of the geological survey. This committee also determined to take any action upon any legislative business during the present session, except in case of some special need.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations did not meet yesterday afternoon. It was the time set for their regular weekly meeting. No action has yet been taken by the committee concerning the nomination of Messrs. White and Logan for the German and Central American missions.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs adopted a resolution declaring that appointments or promotions in the army should not be confirmed to date back of their respective dates of nomination to the Senate, and that the list of pending nominations for appointment and promotion as of date prior to the days on which they were sent to the Senate should be returned to the President for correction in this respect. The resolution will be submitted to the Senate for consideration and action by that body.

The Cabinet Yesterday. There was but little beyond routine business done at the Cabinet meeting yesterday. The monthly report of the Secretary of the Treasury led to some discussion of the finances and the probability of a deficit in the revenues. Some consular appointments were discussed and two or three appointments were made. Appointments and promotions were also agreed upon. The political situation was not referred to.

The Public Debt.

The recapitulation of the statement of the public debt of the United States for the month of March, 1879, just issued, is as follows:

Interest-bearing debt	\$38,424,750.00
Bonds at 6 per cent	20,256,650.00
Bonds at 5 per cent	7,000,000.00
Bonds at 4 per cent	4,400,000.00
Naval pension fund	14,000,000.00
Total	53,650,650.00

Debt on which interest has ceased since maturity 7,672,100.00 |

Debt bearing no interest 23,622,914.00 |

60-day demand and legal-tender notes 23,622,914.00 |

Certificates of deposit 1,425,000.00 |

Practical currency 1,425,000.00 |

Gold and silver certificates 18,625,000.00 || Outstanding certificates | 40,000,000.00 |
| Total | 100,000,000.00 |

Total debt, principal and interest \$137,272,424.00 |

Total cash in the Treasury \$137,272,424.00 |

Deficit, less cash in the Treasury \$0.00 |

April 1, 1879 \$2,057,267.83 |

March 1, 1879 \$2,057,267.83 |

Increase of debt during month \$0.00 |

Decrease since June 30, 1878 \$8,062,272.99 |

Current Liabilities.

Interest due and unpaid \$3,250,000.00 |

Debt on which interest has ceased 7,672,100.00 |

Interest thereon \$23,622,914.00 |

Gold and silver certificates 18,625,000.00 |

United States notes held for redemption 27,650,000.00 |

Outstanding certificates 40,000,000.00 |

Called bonds not matured, for which 4 per cent bonds have been issued 28,447,500.00 |

 Call balance available April 1, 1879 | 144,250,000.00 || Total | \$430,287,424.00 |

"Senator" Spofford.

In the course of current investigations now in progress in New Orleans it has leaked out that the Howard Lottery Company, of that city, was mulcted to the tune of \$25,000 or \$30,000 in 1876 and 1877, the money thus obtained having been used, as it is charged, in procuring the overthrow of the Packard Legislature, inducing returning board members of that body to join the Nicholls Legislature, and subsequently in the election, so-called, of "Senator" Spofford. The New Orleans Times of the 23d instant contains a portion of this exposure, and further details are promised.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate yesterday:—

United States Consul—Oscar Hatfield, of New York; at Havana, John Harris, of Pennsylvania; at Venice, Army promotions—First Lieutenants William W. Rogers and William A. Van Hook, of California; Second Lieutenants James W. Stembel and M. F. Janitor to be first Lieutenants.

Confirmations. The Senate in executive session yesterday confirmed the following nominations:

Francis A. Walker, of Connecticut, to be Superintendent of the census; Dr. Stephen Smith, of New York city, to be Surgeon of Washington, D. C.; to be members of the National Board of Health; Horace Austin, now Third Auditor of the Treasury, to be Register of the Land Office at Fargo, Dakota. Postmaster—John Watson at Palask, N. Y.; John W. Clifton at Palo Alto, and Joseph Hopkins at Brownsville, Texas.

Raid on Illinois Distillers. Commissioner Raum yesterday received an unusually large number of dispatches announcing the result of raids upon illicit distillers in different sections of the country. The frequent arrests made and the number of stills destroyed would seem to indicate a failure to enforce the laws, but in reality it is an evidence of the efficiency of the revenue officers. Since these raids have been so vigorously prosecuted in several distiller districts have for the first time come forth and registered their distilleries, and now conform to the law in all respects. Commissioner Raum today received a number of telegraphic reports from his agents, giving the results of recent raids. Collector Cooper telegraphs from Knoxville, Tenn., as follows: "My raiding party in Hancock County has returned. They were fired upon by a party of nine men Sunday afternoon. The fire was returned, and the assaulting party put to flight. None of the raiding party were hurt. Four illicit distilleries, two copper, and a large quantity of molasses and beer have been seized since my last report." Collector Young telegraphs from Raleigh: "Pennington's raid in Anson County captured four distilleries and had to retire to prevent bloodshed. Mason with posse, captured eight in Orange County. They

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